

# Simple or Complex?

Grades 6 - 8



## Purpose of this activity:

To help students with dyslexia develop a deeper understanding of sentence structure, particularly focusing on complex sentences, conjunctions, and sentence variety. The hands-on approach makes it easier for students to visualize and manipulate the components of sentences, improving their grammar skills through interactive learning.

## What you'll need:

Sentence cards with simple, compound, and complex sentences, conjunction cards set, Sentence Definitions card set, scissors, glue or tape, large poster board or chart paper (optional), and a marker or highlighter.

## How to play:

1. Cut the sentence strips and conjunction cards apart and place them on your work surface along with the glue or tape.
2. Read the sentences and identify the type of sentence (simple, compound, or complex). You can write the word on the back of the sentence strip or just put them in piles with a card to identify each pile.
3. Using the conjunction cards, experiment with combining simple sentences to create compound and complex sentences. Try different conjunctions and observe how the sentence structure changes.

4. Write the new compound sentence on a piece of paper. Once the new sentences are written, use a marker or highlighter to underline the conjunction in the sentence. and then say the word out loud.

\*You can choose to use a poster board and tape or glue your sentences together along with the conjunction card and then tape the new sentences to the poster board or large poster paper instead of writing them on a piece of paper. Use the marker or highlighter to underline the conjunction as well as saying it out loud.

\*\*\*Challenge: For an additional challenge, create your own simple sentences on blank index cards and then combine them to form compound and complex sentences.

**I can drive, or we can take the bus.**

**The dog's owner brought him inside the house.**

**The sun was shining, and we decided to go for a walk.**

**The dog barked loudly.**

**Maria dances gracefully.**

**They finished the project on time.**

**He reads every night.**

**The cat slept.**

**The computer wouldn't turn off  
so I unplugged it.**

**Some camels have only one hump.**

**Most camels have two humps.**

**The girl wanted to go swimming.**

**She wanted to bake a cake.**

**No-one was supervising the pool.**

**They started their project ahead of schedule.**

**His favorite book is "Captain Underpants."**

**She was out of eggs.**

**She will come if you invite her.**

**Although it was raining, we went  
for a walk.**

**The butterflies flew past me.**

**Sue found a pretty rock on the path.**

**The horse grazes in the meadow.**

**The butterflies were very colorful.**

**I had a sandwich for lunch.**

**I love to watch Baseball.**

**Since it's late, we should head home.**

**Sandy put the rock in her garden.**

**His friend wasn't home.**

**When the bell rings, the students leave.**

**I ate a salad for lunch.**

**I stayed home because I wasn't feeling well.**

**Sam went to visit his friend.**

**I got new clothes for my first day of school.**

**I live in a house.**

**The horse sleeps in the barn.**

**I got new shoes.**

## Basic (FANBOYS) Conjunctions

**but**

**or**

**and**

**nor**

**yet**

**so**

**for**

## Subordinating Conjunctions

**although**

**after**

**before**

**as**

**if**

**until**

**unless**

**while**

**when**

**once**

**even if**

**since**



## Complex Sentence

A complex sentence contains one independent clause and at least one dependent (subordinate) clause. The dependent clause starts with a subordinating conjunction (because, although, since, if, when, while).

## Compound Sentence

A compound sentence contains two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

## Simple Sentence

A simple sentence contains one independent clause (a subject and a verb) and expresses a complete thought.

**Independent Clause:** a group of words that has a subject and verb and can stand on its own as a sentence.

**Dependent Clause:** a group of words that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence and needs to be joined with an independent clause to make sense.